**HOSPITAL WASTE**

**Hospital waste**hospital waste is any kind of waste that contains infectious material. This definition include waste generated by healthcare facilities like physician’s offices , hospitals, dental practices ,laboratories, medical research facilities and veterinary clinics .  
**Major 4 types of hospital waste**

* There are four major types of medical waste.   
  **General medical waste**General waste is not typically considered hazardous.  
  this includes paper, plastic, and office waste. These can be disposed regularly and do not require any special handling.  
  **Infectious medical waste**  
  Infectious medical waste is just what the name suggests : its waste material that can pose a risk of infection to humans , animals and the overall environment.   
  This includes blood soaked bandages , sharps waste , surgical waste, human or body parts and swabs.   
  **Hazardous medical waste**   
  This is dangerous waste but is not considered infectious to humans.   
  Chemotherapy agents fall into this category , as well as chemicals , such as solvents , mercury in thermometers and lead in paint.  
  **Radioactive medical waste**  
  Radioactive waste is waste that contains medical waste that contains radioactive material. In a medical setting, this includes radioactive therapies for tests such as thallium stress tests and other nuclear medicine therapies to treat certain cancers.  
   **2 Sources of health care waste** Governmental hospital  
  Private hospitals

Nursing homes   
physicians office   
dentist office   
Dispensaries

Mortuaries

Blood bank and collection centre   
animal houses   
laboratories

Research organization   
**Health care waste   
General waste**   
 75 % to 90 %   
**Hazardous waste** 10 % to 25 %

**Hospital waste management** the management of waste produced by hospitals using such techniques that will help to check the spread of diseases through.  
**steps in management of hospital waste**steps in the management of hospital waste include: -  
-Training and awareness   
-Generation   
-separation   
-collection   
-Transportation   
-storage   
-Treatment   
-Find disposal

**Hospital waste management in Pakistan**hospital are meant to be the cleanest places out there considering the obvious, you know germ\_ disease connection. However , most hospital in Pakistan portray a totally different picture of unhygienic conditions at their best. Some centres do use the waste and management systems, however , it is outdated and centuries old.

According to a study , hospitals in Pakistan cumulatively generate 250000 tons of waste every year which is not only harmful to human health but to the environment, and the economy as well.   
Punjab government has launched a rather innovative way of handling and managing the waste from hospitals.

**The waste management system**new era technologies , the firm hired by the government, will be for responsible handling hospital waste in the province.

The system has been launched in various districts across Punjab where waste from ward level will be collected and disposed. Different coloured bins will be used to collect the waste depending on its infectious level.  
The waste will be transported in fabricated and refrigerated yellow vehicles to the disposal sites for incineration.

**Different steps of hospital waste management   
STEP 1:**waste segregation according to colourcoded bins   
**STEP 2:**  
safe waste collection using PPEs   
**STEP 3:**weighing and barcoding of infectious waste

**STEP 4:**shifting of infectious waste to yellow room in yellow trolley

**STEP 5:**  
interim storage of infectious waste in yellow room   
**STEP 6:**transportation of infectious waste to incineration site via yellow vehicles

**STEP 7:**decoding the barcode of waste bags

**STEP 8** :

Infectious waste bags sent to incinerator for incineration   
**Benefits of proper hospital waste disposal**Proper hospital waste disposal is important for many reasons from protecting public health and the environment to keep patients and co\_workers safe. It also protect your healthcare facility from fines and a bad reputation.  
The ***world health organization*** (WHO) has made a huge effort to encourage proper hospital waste disposal around the world.   
The WHO lists the key facts about medical waste:   
\* Of the total amount of waste generated by health care activities , about 85% is general non\_hazardous waste.  
\*The remaining 15% is considered hazardous material that may be infectious , toxic or radioactive.  
\*Every year an estimated 16 billion injections are administered worldwide , but not all of the needles and syringe are properly disposed of afterwards.  
\*Open burning and incineration of health care waste can , under some circumstances , result in the emission of dioxins, furans, and particulate matter.  
\*Measure to ensure the safe and environmentally sound management of health care wastes can prevent adverse health and environmental impacts from such waste including the unintended release of chemical or biological hazards , including drug resistant microorganism , into the environment thus protecting the health of patient, health workers , and the general public.

**References:**

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